

## Message Text

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53

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 /025 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAF:KLMARSHALL:STT

APPROVED BY ARA:HARYAN

ARA/MEX:JTDREYFUSS (INFO)

RA/PAN:RRWYROUGH (INFO)

ARA/EP:FBCORRY (INFO)

RA/BC:RDRISCOLL (INFO)

ARA/NC:TWSONANDRES (INFO)

RA/BR:RWZIMMERMANN (INFO)

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P 231636Z DEC 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

INFO USIA

DOD OSD/PA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 301382

OSD/PA FOR COL HARRY QUINLAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: ORIENTATION VISIT OF NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

-- OF VFW, THOMAS C. "PETE" WALKER, JANUARY 4 TO

-- JANUARY 18

1. NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN  
WARS, THOMAS C. "PETE" WALKER, WILL VISIT ADDRESSEE POSTS  
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BETWEEN JANUARY 4 AND JANUARY 18. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED

BY THE VFW'S DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, LTC (RETIRED) T.H. MARLOW. PURPOSE OF THIS TRAVEL IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA--WHICH IS THE FIRST FOR ANY VFW OFFICIAL AS WELL AS FOR BOTH MEN PERSONALLY--IS TO OBTAIN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE ORIENTATION TO THE REGION.

2. WALKER AND MARLOW CREDIT DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WITH HAVING CONVINCED THEM, A FEW MONTHS BACK, THAT CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA MERITED CLOSER ATTENTION FROM THE VFW. ACCORDINGLY, THEY DECIDED TO FOREGO TRADITIONAL VISIT OF VFW COMMANDER TO FAR EAST IN FAVOR OF THIS ONE TO 6 LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. THEY REQUESTED ADVANCE BRIEFINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT AND PROVIDED COMPLETE ITINERARY BELOW AS BASIS FOR SCHEDULING OF ADDITIONAL ORIENTATION IN THE FIELD. EXCEPT FOR THE EVENING OF JANUARY 7, TIME SHOWN IN COUNTRY IS WHOLLY AT POST'S DISPOSAL FOR SCHEDULING.

3. DEPARTMENT REGARDS WALKER/MARLOW TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA AS HIGHLY IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERATING INFORMED INTEREST ON THE PART OF NATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF AN ORGANIZATION WITH LARGE AND POWERFUL U.S. CONSTITUENCY.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS AND AMBASSADOR ELLSWORTH BUNKER MET WITH WALKER AND MARLOW, AND THE APPROPRIATE ARA COUNTRY DIRECTORS PROVIDED ONE-HOUR BRIEFINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT DECEMBER 17 AND 18. RECOMMEND POSTS SCHEDULE FOLLOW UP EMBASSY BRIEFINGS, OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET WITH (ENGLISH-SPEAKING)HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS OR OTHER NATION-ALS OF STATURE AND EXPOSURE TO VISIBLE EVIDENCES OF DYNAMISM IN HOST COUNTRY SOCIETY. PLEASE INFORM DEPARTMENT SOONEST WHO CONTROL OFFICER WILL BE, HOW CONTACT WILL BE MADE, AND SOME IDEA OF PROGRAM BEING SET UP.

4. BIO DATA, NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES. THOMAS C. "PETE" WALKER, A NATIVE AND RESIDENT OF NEW LONDON, CONN., WAS ELECTED COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AT THE VFW'S 76TH NATIONAL CONVENTION IN AUGUST 1975. A VETERAN OF WORLD WAR II AND THE KOREAN WAR, HE ENLISTED IN THE CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD IN 1940, WENT THROUGH OCS AT FORT BENNING, LATER TRAINED AS A PILOT AND SERVED AS ARMY AIR CORPS FIGHTER UNCLASSIFIED

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PILOT IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC. MR. WALKER IS A LIFETIME MEMBER AND HAS HELD NUMEROUS CONNECTICUT AND NATIONAL POSTS IN THE VFW. IN NEW LONDON HE HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE MEMBER AND OFFICER IN THE BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF THE ELKS AND THE ALLEN HOOK AND LADDER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND HAS SERVED AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SELECTIVE SERVICE BOARD. A SPORTS-MINDED PERSON, MR. WALKER FOR MANY YEARS HAS BEEN A BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL OFFICIAL IN

LOCAL LEAGUES AND HAS SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL UMPIRES. IN PRIVATE LIFE MR. WALKER IS A SAFETY COMPLIANCE OFFICER FOR PFIZER INC. (PHARMACEUTICALS). HE IS A WIDOWER WITH ONE DAUGHTER, MRS. DONALD DYER, OF POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK.

5. WALKER/MARLOW ITINERARY:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3:

LV NEW LONDON 7:00 PM PILGRAM 227  
ARR NEW YORK (JFK) 7:45 PM  
HOTEL RESERVATION - HOLIDAY INN-KENNEDY AIRPORT

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4:

LV NEW YORK (JFK) 9:30 AM EASTERN 901  
ARR MEXICO CITY 1:34 PM  
HOTEL - SHERATON-MARIA ISABEL

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 6:

LV MEXICO CITY 2:45 PM PAN AM 501  
ARR GUATEMALA CITY 4:20 PM  
LV GUATEMALA CITY 5:50 PM PAN AM 515  
ARR PANAMA CITY 8:50 PM  
HOTEL - HOLIDAY INN-OCEAN FRONT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9:

LV PANAMC CITY 8:40 PM BRANIFF 977  
ARR LIMA 11:43 PM HOTEL-SHERATON-LIMA

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11:

LV LIMA 1:15 PM AVIANCA 81  
ARR SANTIAGO 6:30 PM  
HOTEL - SHERATON-CARRERA  
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TUESDAY, JANUARY 13:

LV SANTIAGO 2:40 PM VARIG 631  
ARR RIO DE JANEIRO 9:10 PM  
GALEAU AIRPORT  
HOTEL - SHERATON-RIO

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15:

LV RIO DE JANEIRO 1:30 PM VIASA 795  
ARR CARACAS 6:35 PM  
HOTEL - HOLIDAY INN

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18:

LV CARACAS 9:30 AM PAN AM 218  
ARR NEW YORK (JFK) 1:15 PM

LV NEW YORK (JFK) 4:30 PM PILGRAM 162  
ARR NEW LONDON 5:40 PM

END ITINERARY KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 23 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, OTRA, MX, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, (WALKER, THOMAS C)  
**To:** MEXICO MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006